

Using LiDAR to characterize forest canopy structure: Results from long-term N*P fertilization in northern hardwood forest

N effect on Mean height of tree



Decrease VAI by 5%: p=0.03

Vegetative Area index (VAI) is the ratio of the vegetative part of trees to the ground area

Introduction

Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) dataset is helpful to explore the canopy structure of Bartlett Experimental Forest where the full factorial experiment of N*P is going on since 2011. LiDAR data was collected from 2014 to 2019 except for 2015.

Methods

Data was acquired from National Ecological

The LiDAR data generated 13 canopies structural

parameters which were further analyzed using a linear mixed model with age and treatment as fixed

Out of 13 parameters investigated, 4 responded

Observatory Network (NEON).

significantly to treatment:

2. Vegetative Area Index (VAI)

effects and stand as a random effect.

1. Mean height of tree across plots

4. Vegetation Complexity Index (VCI).

9000 Æ

Discussion

LiDAR can be a promising tool for improved forest management. This remote sensing approach can detect the effect of N and P addition on tree canopy structure.

3. Rumple

Acknowledgement

I would like to thank my advisor Ruth Yanai, labmates and Alex Young for their continuous support and guidance. And thanks to US Department of State and US Agency for International Development for financially supporting QUERCA project.

P effect on Rumple



Rumple index increases by 8%: p=0.04 Rumple is the canopy roughness

P effect on VCI



VCI increases by 4%: p=0.01 Vegetation Complexity Index (VCI) is the vertical distribution of the foliage.